

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
February 27, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2012 Special meeting with the addition of staff to the list of those present. Motion to approve passed unanimously. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2012 regular meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2102 Special meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Joan Buck, Sumner Drive, commented on the proposed Ethics Code. (Statement attached)

Tulay Luciano, Warrenville Road, asked the Council to take action to remove UConn's Hazardous Waste Materials Storage Facility from the Fenton River Watershed. (Statement attached).

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, endorsed Ms. Luciano's comments and offered an apology, a thank you and a number of requests. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, suggested the Council not include the Blue Light System in the parking garage and feels the cost overruns on the project should be the responsibility of the architect.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked the status of UConn's Hazmat facility be added to a future agenda and offered his services to oversee the garage construction project.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, expressed her objections to cars being provided to certain staff members, the ratification by the Council of the WINCOG grant after its submission, the lack of a surety bond for the Storrs Center Project and questioned the inclusion of the Downtown Partnership's Director in the Town's retirement system.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, thanked State Senator Don Williams and State Representative Gregory Haddad for attending the Council's meeting and asked them to review the situation of UConn not being a water company but acting as one and the existence of the Hazmat Facility in the watershed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Moran seconded to move Item 2, Meetings with State Legislators and Item 3, Mansfield Downtown District Public Spaces and Green Infrastructure Master Plan, as the next items of business.
Motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart addressed the following public comments:

The revisions to the Ethics Ordinance, which is now being reviewed by the Personnel Committee, incorporated the use of employer numbers in order to define which entities are covered by the Code. Mr. Hart agreed any use of Town equipment should be driven by the Code not by labor agreements and defended the policy of certain staff members being provided with vehicles. There are good business reasons to do so.

Downtown Partnership Director Cynthia van Zelm is not enrolled in the Town's retirement plan. The Partnership has its own plan.

As directed by Council, the water workshop will be scheduled after the release of the EIE.

A discussion of the history and current location of UConn's Hazmat facility could be added to a future agenda or referred to the Town/University Committee.

V. REPORT AND COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Keane asked if the Board of Education is covered by the Ethics Code. The Town Manager reported both the Board of Education's and the Town's attorneys are reviewing the issue. An answer should be available prior to the next Personnel Committee meeting.

Mr. Kochenburger expressed interest in reviewing the Hazmat facility and, in response to a public comment, noted the Town could not hold a surety bond on the Storrs Center Project as it is not owned by the Town.

Mayor Paterson congratulated the efforts of the UConn students who raised over \$400,000 at their Huskython. The money was donated to the Connecticut's Children's Medical Center.

Ms. Lindsey asked for clarification regarding what types of events will be permitted on the Town Square. Staff discussed the permitted uses and guidelines as set forth in the Development Agreement. A reference to First Amendment Rights to use of the Square is also contained in the Agreement.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. FY 2012/13 Budget Review Meeting Schedule

The revised schedule corrects the date of the Region 19 Budget Referendum which is the same date as the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2. Meeting with State Legislators

Senator Don Williams and Representative Gregory Haddad updated the Council on the current economic status of the State and issues before the Legislature. Senator Williams stated job creation, education reforms, and issues surrounding the performance of electric companies are part of the Legislative agenda. Representative Haddad has been focusing on issues concerning continued aid to municipalities, job initiatives and higher and secondary education. Both Legislators agree the economic picture, although far from optimal, is improving. Council members discussed the problem with the current Minimum Budget Requirement for the Town's education budget and the need to address the penalty imposed as a result of energy and payroll savings realized by building two new schools. The Legislators reported some modifications are being considered and they would welcome specific proposals. The wishes of the Town and UConn will also be considered in any discussions regarding the UConn Hazmat facility. Both Legislators are in support of changes to the absentee ballot provisions and Election Day Registration, with the provision that towns, like Mansfield, will be offered pilot programs to help mitigate the expected impact.

3. Mansfield Downtown District Public Spaces and Green Infrastructure Master Plan

Joined by students Devon Lagasse and Roger Engle, Kristin Schwab, University of Connecticut Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, presented the Mansfield Downtown District Public Spaces and Green Infrastructure Master Plan to the Council. The students worked over the summer, meeting with many stakeholders and developing this plan. Endorsed unanimously by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership's Board of Directors, Ms. Schwab asked for input from the Council.

Council members thanked the presenters for their work and imaginative ideas.

4. Application to DECD Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization Grant Program

Town Manager Matt Hart explained Council approval is not required for the submission of this grant application, however, if the grant is awarded the Council would need to authorize the receipt of the funds.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to add Item a, Discussion of Grant Opportunities, to the agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

4a. Discussion of Grant Opportunities

Mr. Hart asked the Town Council for guidance in situations when grant opportunities arise and there is an immediate deadline for submission with no opportunity to seek Council approval at a regular meeting. Options include calling a special meeting, submitting the grant and then requesting ratification, or missing the opportunity for funding. A National Endowment for the Arts grant for developing art in public spaces requiring the support of the municipality and a 501.3.c arts organization is one such situation. UConn's School of Fine Arts is interested in relocating the Ballard Puppet Museum to Storrs Center, and this money, if awarded could be used for the design of the project.

Council members agreed if there are matching funds required or a long term financial obligation incurred Town Council approval should be sought prior to submission but if the grant applies to an already approved funded project the opportunity should not be missed. Many applications do not commit the Town to accept the grant, if awarded, and require Council approval for acceptance.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to authorize the Mayor to write a letter in support of a grant to the National Endowment for the Arts to develop art in public spaces, as long as there is no corresponding matching Town cash contribution or long term obligation, except for in kind contributions.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Small Cities (CDBG) Public Hearing – Housing Rehabilitation

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded effective February 27, 2012, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building at the Town Council's regular meeting on March 26, 2012, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Appointment to Eastern Highland Health District Board of Directors

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective February 27, 2012, to appoint Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola as an alternate member of the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan moved, effective February 27, 2012, to accept the 2010/11 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the State and Federal Single Audit Reports for the Town of Mansfield, as endorsed by the Finance Committee.

The reports were reviewed and endorsed by the Finance Committee. The Committee agreed to the suggestion a Fraud Risk Assessment be conducted and will include funding in next year's budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Reapportionment of Regional School District #19

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, to appoint the following Mansfield residents to the Regional School District 19 Reapportionment Committee: Philip Barry, Bruce Clouette, Ronald Schurin, Nancy Silander and April Holinko.

Motion passed unanimously

9. Status Report on Storrs Center Public Infrastructure – Parking Garage cost Overrun
Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren reviewed the cost overruns for the parking garage and possible available revenue sources. A seventh floor is being built, adding an extra

60 spaces. Town Council members asked staff to research the need for the Blue Light System and to acquire legal counsel with expertise in contract law. An update will be provided to Council.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Lindsey requested clarification as to whether draft or approved minutes are included in this section. Only approved minutes are included in the packet.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Bill Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee will be going out to bid for an auditor. The current contract will be expiring.

Chair of the Committee on Committees Peter Kochenburger offered the recommendation of Nora Stevens for reappointment to the Board of Ethics. Mr. Kochenburger reviewed Ms. Steven's tenure on the Committee. Ms. Stevens has served on the Board for more than ten years but Mr. Kochenburger noted the limitation, as it appears in Chapter 192 of the Mansfield Code, has never been enforced. Currently there are over 50 board and committee members who have served more than ten years. Mr. Kochenburger suggested the Council review Chapter 192 of the Mansfield Code and form an ad hoc committee to see if a modification should be enacted to reflect current practices.

The motion to appoint Nora Stevens to the Board of Ethics passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to appoint Councilor Lindsey to the Sustainability Committee. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

10. Mansfield Agriculture Committee re: Proposed CL&P Transmission Line

11. M. Hart re: Mansfield Police Services Study

12. Hartford Courant "Public Records Not Always As Open As They Should Be" – 02-21-2012

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Ryan suggested a discussion on applying the 1% bonding exclusion this year to the Four Corners Water and Sewer Project.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (A).

Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (A)

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

February 27, 2012